



University of Dayton President Daniel J. Curran outside the University of Dayton's Research Institute



nationally renowned Research Institute in the vacated space in the Kettering Laboratories. It will also allow the School of Engineering to expand, provide space for the Ohio Research Scholars, and house graduate classes and a proposed alumni center.

Created shortly after World War II, the institute has nearly tripled its sponsored research in the past decade,

jumping from \$37.1 million to nearly \$100. The National Science Foundation ranks UD as the No. 1 Catholic university for sponsored engineering research and development, and second among all universities in sponsored materials research.

"This is an exceptional opportunity for the university to invest in our future — and this region's destiny," says President Daniel J. Curran. "It's a bold move for a private, Catholic university and a symbol of the university's forward-thinking nature."

The University of Dayton, whose campus now spans nearly 400 acres and whose reach is global, has built a strong reputation for combining technological advances with economic development. The reputation gave the university and its partners — the city of Dayton, Montgomery County, the Dayton Development Coalition and CityWide Development Corp. — a competitive edge in securing the state's first Ohio Hub of Innovation and Opportunity. The Aerospace Hub is focusing on growing technology jobs in materials, advanced manufacturing, sensors and sensor integration — all areas of research strength for the university, which serves as the southern anchor for the hub. The state was recently awarded a \$3.5 million Ohio Job Ready Site grant for

Dayton Re-invented

Long known as a city of bold inventors, Dayton is quickly moving forward as the city of innovation in the early 21st century. The southwestern Ohio city has been the site for many patents and inventions. Famous inventors such as the Wright Brothers, who invented the airplane, and Charles F. Kettering, who had numerous inventions, came from Dayton.

Dayton gave birth to aviation and is known for its high concentration of aerospace and aviation technology. In 2009, Governor Ted Strickland designated Dayton as Ohio's aerospace innovation hub, the first such technology hub in the state. Two major research and development organizations have leveraged Dayton's historical leadership in aviation and maintain their headquarters in the area: The National Air and Space Intelligence Center (NASIC) and the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL). NASIC is the U.S. military's primary producer of intelligence on foreign air and space forces, weapons and systems, while the AFRL provides leading-edge war fighting capabilities to keep U.S. air, space and cyberspace forces the world's best. Both have their headquarters at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

Wright-Patterson is one of the largest Air Base Wings in the Air Force; its more than 27,000 employees and 68 tenant units generated a total economic impact in the Dayton area of \$5.1 billion in 2009. It is the fifth largest employer in the state of Ohio and the largest employer at a single location. In addition, state officials are working to make the Dayton region a hub and a leader for UAV research and manufacturing.

High among the innovative moves being made in Dayton is the University of Dayton's acquisition of the former NCR world headquarters, which will serve as the university's base for its



The new covered parking garage at Dayton International Airport.



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DAYTON

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transforming a portion of the space in the former Fortune 500 headquarters into a collaborative innovation center that will create jobs and speed the commercialization of technology.

Michael Gessel, vice president of government programs for the Dayton Development Coalition, said high-tech companies thinking of opening in Dayton or establishing a presence in the area often look for a community of scientists and engineers who can support their work. "The greater its recognition, the broader its research capability, the more power it will have to support business recruitment," says Gessel, who works out of the coalition's Washington, D.C., office.

Dayton is more than scientists and inventors, however. As a place to visit, the city has one of the finest active cultural communities in the nation. The Dayton region ranked 33rd in the nation out of 373 metropolitan areas in arts and culture.

Dayton is the home of the Dayton

Art Institute as well as the Benjamin and Marian Schuster Performing Arts Center in downtown. This world-class performing arts center is the home venue of the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra, Dayton Opera and the Dayton Ballet. In addition, the Schuster Center hosts concerts, lectures, traveling Broadway shows and is a popular spot for weddings and other events. The historic Victoria Theatre, located downtown, hosts concerts, traveling Broadway shows, ballet, a summertime classic film series and more. The Loft Theatre, also located downtown, is the home of the Human Race Theatre Company.

Right in the middle of all of this activity is the Crowne Plaza Dayton, one of the most popular and stylish places in town to stay. Built in 1979, the hotel will begin a multimillion-dollar renovation this winter and be ready for the spring 2011. Located across the street from the Dayton Convention Center and near all the cultural and

arts venues, the hotel is a hot spot for business. It has 12,000 square feet of meeting space, breathtaking views of downtown, when it's time to play, the lounge offers jazz on Friday and Saturday nights.

Getting in and out of Dayton is easy. AirTran Airways, the dominant carrier at the Dayton International Airport, has 72 flights weekly. The airport is one of the most passenger-friendly in the nation, as it recently completed a \$37 million covered parking garage that includes access ramps in and out of the facility that are equipped with special coils to prevent the ramps from freezing during winter, and two 15-foot fountains facing the Terminal Building that are incorporated into the landscape design. The covered parking garage is part of the airport's \$156 million five-year capital spending program. You'll also find a number of shops and restaurants providing visitors with a better travel experience.

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